

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, March 8, 2021 – Goodells County Park

1) Roll Call

Present: Donna Wojtysiak, Lori Warchuck, Mike Tomasek, Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Jacqui Rabine, Tim Warchuck, Alan Thueme, Mark Pedersen, Bernie Dudek, Colleen Provost, Tom Vincent, Linea Burch, Linda Taylor, Bob Clogg, Liz Pennazoli, Scott Hill, Kim Hetzel.

Guests: Kristy Hardy, Brad Brenske, Kim Tomasek, Barb Hahn, Connie Murray, Lucy Brown, Ray Long, Megan Tomasek.

Absent: Nate Havens.

Excused: Kent Renn.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) AGENDA

A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by A. Thueme to approve the agenda with the addition of reopening plan and vendor contracts.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by M. Tomasek to approve January and February minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by j. Rabine, supported by S. Hill to approve the treasurer's report as submitted.

Motion carried.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

L. Burch sent out letters for large animal judges. Sponsorship meeting is to be scheduled for Thursday, March 18. L. Burch will order the numbers for the yard signs.

7) MSU Extension:

MSU is still no face to face. The 4-H Council Auction was held in February and there was 52 items, made almost \$4,000 from that. Good participation in auction. No overnight events for 4-H. Starting to have virtual classroom activities, such as embryology and China Art.

8) COMMITTEES REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

L. Warchuck has acquired the Ag on the Move trailer.

B) AWARDS

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B. Dudek reported the Regalia order has been placed. We may need 1-10 ribbons. Will need to order crowns for the court.

Discussion held about horse ribbons. L. Warchuck stated the horse project buys their own ribbons. Fair Board buys horses grand and reserve champion ribbons. Horse project orders the ribbons and Fair Board pays for the ribbons. B. Clogg stated that in the past if the horse project wanted better ribbons the project paid for them. Updated letter from MSU had provisions for using 4-H funds for awards, can continue to use them for that purpose. Fair board paid \$2,000 in 2019 to Hodges for the horse ribbons. We paid \$43.60 for open horse show ribbons. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to contribute .50 per placing ribbons for horse ribbons based on the 2019 numbers for horses.

Motion carried.

Ray Long is here to inquire whether we will be having an actual live fair, which that is the plan, because he'll start looking for tram drivers. He asked about mask requirements for the drivers and the requirements will be whatever the State requires. Discussion has been held regarding not having trams at the fair due to health requirements, people sitting for longer periods of time close together, that trams may not be feasible for the fair this year.

C) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We have submitted our 120 day report, submitted grant request for roofs for 2 horse barns. Quote that came back was \$31,500 per barn. Grant is a \$40,000 match.

Price of steel is going up in April. July time frame steel might come down or up, will have to be flexible. Parks is doing community building and splash pad pavilion, farm house, school and trying to get quotes for electric service for northern areas.

We got a bid from Central Michigan Roofing.

D) CRATER – No report.

E) ENTERTAINMENT

We will tentatively plan on having Dwayne Spaw on Tuesday. We will book Animal Oasis and have him bring his own set up rather than use anything that we might have.

F) FACILITIES – No report.

G) HANDICABLE DAY – No report.

H) LIVESTOCK

Pullorum testing discussed. We need to order serum and look for testers.

I) PARKS AND RECREATION

The new park director officially starts 4-1-21 and transition and two month cross over and get her on board. We have been working on numbers and on a plan to present to the Health Department.

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The contractor is set to seed the grassy area where the carnival sets up in April. Brad Brenske inquired about the concrete blocks at the crater, Parks would like us to send them a letter saying Parks can have those. R. Usakowski will be meeting with Mark Brochu, Nancy and Brad Brenske to go over plan and make sure we're all in agreement on how to run the fair in 2021. Brad Brenske said barns were considered outdoor areas in 2020 which is good for our fair.

J) PERSONNEL – No report.

K) PUBLICITY

A meeting will be held March 18th after sponsorship.

L) STILL EXHIBITS

Megan Tomasek indicated after reading the plan about still exhibits and talking to Kim Tomasek they feel instead of changing judging days and following restrictions, instead of judging and interviews, exhibitors drop projects off and eliminate a lot of people in there at one time, also eliminate interviews.

M) SUPERINTENDENT DEVELOPMENT – No report.

9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) REOPENING PLAN/VENDORS

There are restrictions as of 3-5-21 capacity is non-residential venues no more than 25 people can gather. Some additional things for entertainment facilities, set of additional criteria, indoors stadiums 375 people that holds 10,000. Indoor entertainment no more than 300 patrons. Beef arena would be 300, also gives secondary requirement of no more than 50% capacity. Up to us to convince county health department how it's classified. Key to have county health department support the plan. Conversations about moving forward with health department favorable to date. Anticipate training volunteers what we're looking for and requiring for superintendents/volunteers. May require health checks set up on front end to get volunteers and easy to monitor and control. Temperature checks would be another one. Encouraging less cash handling.

Masks will likely be a requirement in July, probably not going away between now and then. We have had handwashing stations. MDA requirements to have them outside every barn. Vendors should have some hand sanitizer available and part of their contract. Capacity limits on buildings. Would need volunteers and superintendents to monitor number of people in buildings. Encourage social distancing and mask wearing. Signage on every building. Enhanced cleaning. Need to make sure surfaces are cleaned more regularly. Ask bathroom people to send more people. Person responsible for our compliance, we designate that person with no other responsibilities to make sure we're in compliance.

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Show arena is 8,000 sq. feet. We can book the wood carver. We may need to rent fence from National Fence.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by A. Thueme to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary

Next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7 p.m. at Goodells County Park.